TOP SECRET

488

OAS ACTION AGAINST COMMUNISM IN GUATEMALA

Meeting May 11, 1954, 5:00 p.m.

1. The same officers attended as at the previous meeting, with the addition of Mr. John W. Fisher, Guatemalan Desk Officer.

2. Mr. Holland was informed that FSO Hill was due to arrive that night in Washington. He directed that Mr. Hill should commence work on the preparation of the brief immediately on his report to the Department on May 12.

3. Mr. Holland directed that the cable to be sent to Bogotá, Lima, Santiago de Chile, and Buenos Aires should go out at once, as twenty-four hours had already been lost. Mr. Leddy was directed to draft the cable and obtain necessary clearances.

4. Mr. Holland said that he would wish a copy of what was done since the last meeting each time the group was called together.

5. The following meeting is to be held at the same time tomorrow night.

ARA:MID:RGLeddy:nf:mem

TOP SECRET

304644

This Document Must Be Returned to Central Files
714.00/5-1154

RM/R

TOP SECRET

Cable from Ambassador Willauer, Tegucigalpa, to Mr. Holland, Department of State, May 24, 1954, 1 A.M.

President Galvez sent two official memoranda to Ambassador at 9:00 p.m. (Tegucigalpa time) May 23, 1954: First memorandum stated:

A. There are threats to Government from external and internal Communism; former shown by over 100 telegrams of support to strikers from foreign Communist and Communist-front organizations; and telegrams to Galvez from various military commanders, reporting concentrations Guatemalan troops along Honduran border; latter threat shown by open defiance of Government by north coast strikers and sabotage of Standard Fruit Company strike settlement by Communist leaders and their opposing United Fruit Company settlement. Government has evidence hidden arms are available to strikers.

B. Honduran Government now unable guarantee lives and properties foreigners and its own nationals against "imminent threats of international Communism" and requests United States Government cooperate with it in opposing danger, under Rio Treaty.

C. Specifically requests two U.S. warships stand near but out of sight of Puerto Cortes, La Ceiba and Tela, for assistance in case any need, to local authorities

Second memo: Honduran Government has information, unconfirmed, that two ships now coming Guatemala with Iron Curtain arms; Honduran Government should locate and detain since these arms threat to Honduran peace.

Ambassador recommends action as requested but not directed at landings in Honduras, though this may become necessary.

Galvez wants prompt answer and complete secrecy both sides meanwhile. Ambassador wants coordination between him and any naval force.

TOP SECRET